

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for separating a saturated organic compound bearing at least one functional group from a mixture which comprises this saturated organic compound containing at least one functional group and also one or more other organic compounds, which comprises
 - i) mixing a silver-ion-loaded ion exchanger with the mixture at a temperature which is below the boiling point of the mixture,
 - ii) then removing the supernatant and
 - iii) detaching the ion-exchanger-bound, saturated organic compound having at least one functional group from the ion exchanger,wherein the saturated organic compound containing at least one functional group which is bound to the ion exchanger is detached from the ion exchanger using a solvent; the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group contains at least one group which is selected from =O, -OH, -C(O)OH, -C(O)H, -COOR, -C-O-C- and -C-O-R-, where R is an organic group, and the ion exchanger has a water content of less than 10 ppm.
2. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 2.
3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group bears at least one active hydrogen atom.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acids, hydroxycarboxylic acids, ketocarboxylic acids, alcohols, carboxylic esters, ethers and ketones.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group is selected from the group consisting of: alcohols having from 12 to 30 carbon atoms, esters of hydroxycarboxylic acids and/or aminocarboxylic acids and esters or ethers of polyhydric alcohols.
6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group is selected from the group consisting of: esters or ethers of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, propanediol, 1,2- or 1,3-butanediol and glycerol.
7. (Previously Presented) A method for separating a saturated organic compound bearing at least one functional group from a mixture which comprises this saturated organic compound containing at least one functional group and also one or more other organic compounds, which comprises
 - i) mixing a silver-ion-loaded ion exchanger with the mixture at a temperature which is below the boiling point of the mixture,
 - ii) then removing the supernatant and
 - iii) detaching the ion-exchanger-bound, saturated organic compound having at least one functional group from the ion exchanger,wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group is selected from the group consisting of chimyl, batyl and selachyl alcohol.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group is selected from the group consisting of mono- and disubstituted glycerol, the substituents being identical or different fatty acids.
9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ion exchanger is a cation exchanger.
10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ion exchanger has acid properties and is microporous, macroporous or macroreticular.
11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the cation exchanger is macroreticular.
12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the macroreticular cation exchanger comprises at least one of either sulfonic acid or carboxyl groups.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ethers, ketones, esters, nitriles and mixtures of two or more of these solvents.
15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the solvent is ethanol.
16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixture is dissolved in a solvent which is selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of alkanes, ketones, ethers, esters, diketones, diesters, diethers, diols, polyols, nitriles, dinitriles and alcohols.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said saturated organic compound containing at least one functional group has greater polarity and/or less steric hindrance than the one or more organic compounds.
18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the saturated organic compound bearing a functional group is selected from the group consisting of lauric, myristic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, arachic and behenic acids.
19. (Canceled) Please cancel Claim 19.
20. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the silver-ion-loaded ion exchanger has a particle size of from 20 to 50 mesh.
21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mixture is a mixture of ethers and esters, a mixture of a homologous series, a mixture of positional isomers or a mixture of regioisomers.
22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said mixture is a mixture of esters bound to differing fatty acids.